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SUBJECT: IRAN PRESS/NUCLEAR: FOREIGN MINISTER MOTTAKI'S OCTOBER 20
COMMENTS ON NUCLEAR ISSUES

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(U) The following are nuclear-related comments from IRIG Foreign Minister Mottaki's October 20 morning Press conference (rough translation follows):

[On Iran's Nuclear Rights]: Today all country's admit to Iran's right for use of nuclear technology for peaceful goals [which he contrasts to the prevailing international mood at the 2005 start of the Ahmadinejad administration].

[On Vienna IAEA Discussions re Fuel for Tehran Research Reactor]:

- In the talks that have recently taken place in Vienna, the sides agreed that IAEA Director General Mohammad Al-Baradei would announce the results of the meetings. The face of the meeting for the sides is clear. The Tehran Research Reactor will need new fuel in a while and based on international law and regulations we announced this need to the IAEA and some countries expressed their willingness to provide fuel, with technical talks for carrying out this work starting in Vienna yesterday.

- We had announced that the TRR needed fuel. Based on the law announced this need to the IAEA. Some countries announced their willingness to provide fuel to Iran and technical discussions for carrying this out began in Vienna yesterday.

- We are convinced that continuing this meeting can lead to an agreement by the sides to provide the 20 percent enriched fuel that Tehran needs.

[when asked about guaranteed supply of fuel for the TCC]: If the talk is of guarantees, it is the other side who must provide us guarantees concerning providing fuel.

[question re the Vienna talks and the probability of discussions

between Iranian and US officials separately on its margins]: The negotiations took place based on the agreements that had been arrived at previously. Based on the subject under discussion, whether officially and collectively or in the location of negotiations with various delegations there was an agenda that existed on which agreement was reached. As such, there are discussions carried out by the whole group at the official location and other discussions that are carried out.

- Iran's proposal to the IAEA for providing fuel for the TRR was passed to a number of countries. The US and Russia agreed to cooperate in providing fuel. It is natural that there must be technical discussions between these two countries and these discussions are taking place with the presence of the IAEA. The amount of fuel we need is not great and therefore there is no need for the presence of the French.

[question: the Western side says that most of the enriched uranium will be sent to Russia whereas the Iranian side is saying that most of the uranium will stay in Iran: what is Iran's decision in this matter?]: Iran has put forward its proposal concerning provision of TRR fuel to the IAEA. The IAEA within the framework of the relevant regulations has relayed this proposal to some fuel producers and possessors of fuel and two countries agreed to act relative to providing it. As to by what mechanism the fuel will be provided and within what framework is the subject of discussions in Vienna. After these discussions are finalized, further details will be provided by the discussants or by the MFA.

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[question: yesterday Iran announced that France wasn't a reliable country for carrying out negotiations, but based on reports, France is at the negotiating table today]: France was not one of the countries that expressed its willingness to provide fuel to Iran. For this reason it was natural that this meeting be carried out with countries who did express their willingness. Of course naturally there are marginal issues and other matters being put forward in the press and by those following the issues which can be discussed and dealt with when necessary.

[Freeze for Freeze]: With respect to the very clear agenda in Vienna with one round already carried out, such an issue is not on the agenda for discussions.

[Effect of Baluchistan Terrorist Incident on P5+1 Talks]: We will give an appropriate answer to any issue at its own [i.e. appropriate] time.

[question: Al-Baradei has indicated that the road to solving the nuclear issue is via transparent discussions between Iran and the US, does this viewpoint exist in Iran?] That which was discussed in Geneva with the P5+1 was the package of proposals that Iran presented and in that context it is obvious that we have announced our willingness for continuing these discussions. In our opinion the package proposed by Iran is a comprehensive one with various topics and can lead to good decisions and agreements concerning nuclear subjects, disarmament, and the role of the IAEA and its supervisory system.

[question: if in the negotiations an agreement is reached concerning buying fuel, will these agreements be based on Iran changing or suspending its nuclear activities, or will Iran continue its nuclear activities as before?] Iran's nuclear activities are within the framework of its NPT rights and its observation of its commitments are within the framework of IAEA regulations. The issue of Iran's legal and peaceful nuclear activities has been set, towards achieving the rights of the Iranian nation to create nuclear energy and electricity from nuclear power, and the Majlis has committed the Administration such that 20 thousand Megawatts of electricity be provided by nuclear energy, and this is an issue that various sides have announced.

- In response to "if it doesn't happen" questions say that we try so that it does happen. We pursue the matter within the legal framework. Based on IAEA agreements, the possessors of this fuel are committed to provide this fuel to countries that don't have it. This is an obligation that the NPT and IEAE regulations puts on countries possessing fuel. Our request is fully legal and clear. The IAEA is trying to make it happen. We hope that the IAEA is successful in its efforts but if these agreements take place they have no relation to the topic of Iran's enrichment. One issue is providing fuel for the Tehran Research Reactor and another [i.e. separate] issue is Iran's peaceful and legal nuclear activities for providing fuel for its electrical power stations, and these two topics are not related to each other.

[Removal of France from Negotiations]: This issue has no relation to other issues that we have with France to include the potential 50 tons that we had in former agreements with France and matters relating to it. This matter must be examined and discussed in its own place.
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